

The

Old Paludians Newsletter

Founded 1915

Website: www.oldpaludians.org

March 2006

Last year we marked our 90th Anniversary with the publication of our new Book called *School Ties*. This has been well received by everyone and is very much a real part of the social history of Slough. It is available at the Reunion or by post so we can recommend it - it contains many fascinating memories of life at our Schools over the years.

Our 2005 Reunion was quite spectacular and a very happy day was rounded off by a rousing rendition of the newly discovered Old Paludians song.

Sadly we have lost a number of Old Paludians this past year as the years take their toll. Included in this list are a number of much loved former members of staff.

We thank Mrs Lenton for letting us invade the School once again and we also thank the staff who help both in the run-up to the Reunion and on the Day itself. It is an occasion looked forward to by many as a chance to meet up with friends and to exchange news. We hope everyone will enjoy themselves.

THE ARCHIVES We received a number of donations of items of School memorabilia to our Archive during the year. Especially noteworthy were a superb set of exercise books from the 1940s given by Joyce Haggerty (Newstead), a mixed collection of rare items (including a Lectern Cover designed and made to celebrate the High School's 21st birthday) donated by Vivienne Tuddenham and the gift of two photographs both new to us from Audrey Evans. We have also just received 6 SGS magazines among which are three previously unknown team photographs kindly given by Ann Neale - see inside.

We are most grateful to everyone who thinks of us when spring cleaning or downsizing or.... Our archive continues to grow - but without our members' kind donations, progress would be slow or non-existent. Keep up the good work of donations, members!! David Rogers - Archivist.

I apologise unreservedly for any errors and omissions in this Newsletter - these are entirely mine. Thank you for your support and all your contributions over the years. The Newsletter is always eagerly awaited by those members who are unable to come to the Reunions because of distance, other commitments or increasing years.

Regrettably this is my 12th and final edition of the Newsletter and I make no apology for its length! Our Newsletters have grown beyond recognition during the past 13 years (I was in hospital one year) thanks to you for sending us all your news. I have thoroughly enjoyed my contact with you and I feel you have all become friends - do, please, keep your contributions coming in - you can send them to the new editor, Shelagh Rothero, whose details are on the back page. I am sure you will support her and wish her good luck! My thanks to everyone, do keep in touch if you can. I am not going too far, since I have volunteered

to look after the records and new membership details. All my best wishes - Valerie.

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

I would like to thank you, the members for your support last year, our 90th Anniversary. Over 220 members attended the Reunion, and Julia Long, the Mayor of Slough, joined us for the afternoon and cut the Anniversary cake at teatime. Thank you also for your generous financial donations to our funds and also for the donations sent directly to the School in support of the International Baccalaureate initiative.

The sales of our book 'School Ties' have gone well and we have now recouped the expenses, which means that the income from future sales will benefit the Association Funds and the School Library. If you would like a copy, please return the form that is printed on page 19/20 together with your cheque.

In November we presented Jane Brown, School Librarian, who is also an Old Paludian and Committee Member, with a cheque for £1,500. She has used this money to buy books and audio-visual teaching material to support the courses run in School. The books included those purchased in memory of those members who died in 2004/5 and were remembered on the Roll of Honour last year. They all have a special bookplate recording the member's name and years in School.

In addition we gave £100 to the School for Prizes. The Old Paludians' Prizes for Head Boy and Head Girl were presented to Jason Fletcher and Sarbina Samra at Prize Day in December.

Sadly, Valerie has announced that she wishes to retire from the position of Editor of the Newsletter at this year's AGM. She has done a wonderful job over twelve years, combining the position with that of Secretary for much of the time, and we thank her for all of the time, knowledge and expertise which she has expended on our behalf. She has offered to look after the records for which we are grateful.

In February I sent an urgent letter to all members on email looking for someone to edit the Newsletter in 2007 and I am delighted that Shelagh Rothero (née Jacques) has offered to undertake this task for us.

I am aware and concerned that several members did not receive their invitation letters by post for this year's reunion. After investigation I have concluded that the postal services let us down. In addition, I know that some members did not receive their invitation letters by email. Ian Cairns reported that some people have changed email addresses without letting us know; others share computers and their partner might have deleted the incoming mail. Also some anti-virus and spam-filtering systems might have rejected our communication. **My message to all members is that if you have not received your invitation letter or email by the first week in February please contact us, or look at our website, where a copy of the invitation will be posted.**

We will put the date of the 2007 reunion onto the website as soon as it is known.

Finally, I would like to thank the Committee for their help during the past twelve months, and Mrs Lenton, our President, for her continuing support.

I wish you all a happy and healthy year.

Jean Tyler
Chairman

The Largest Family Group - we are looking for the largest family group who all went to the SSS, SGS, SHS and subsequently UGS/SGS. We know of several groupings, the 5 Gunn brothers, the Ford family and the 4 Hammond sisters to name a few instances BUT there must be families of several generations who attended, say, with grandmother/grandfather then sons or daughters and subsequently their children. Even great grandparents if the children are, perhaps, at school now. Are YOU part of such a large family Group? If so, please get in touch with Jean Tyler. It would be an interesting statistic to both know and perhaps quote from time to time when writing about the School's history. We will give a copy of the book, *School Ties*, to the winning group - they don't have to all be alive now but merely to know of them is enough! Jean's address details are on the back page.

****STAFF NEWS****

Miss G E Allen (1936-40). Now aged 94 years, Miss Allen has had to leave her home and glorious garden in Milton-under-Wychwood and has gone to live in a Nursing Home near Burford. *We send our greetings and wish her well – Ed.*

Mrs N Boul (1936-45, 1950-73). Mrs Boul continues to live in residential care in Woking. *We all send our best wishes to Mrs Boul – hopefully the Newsletter will enable her to catch up on everyone's news – Ed.*

Miss Margaret Rowland (1945-78). I am still living in Slough and still working two mornings a week at Wexham Park Hospital where, over the years, I have met many ex-SHS pupils among the patients, staff and co-volunteers. Since moving into a bungalow nearly three years ago I have been quite busy getting things organised inside and in the garden. In July I was invited to a Buckingham Palace Garden Party. We were chauffeured in the Mayor's car and the weather was good so it was a lovely experience. On holiday in September I was able to visit **Mr & Mrs Binstead** and **Mrs Purdue** (sometime matron at SHS) and we had a great time talking over old times !!

Mrs Anne Chedlow (1947-54). Mrs Chedlow says she moved to a small, friendly village in the heart of Suffolk last year. Historically it was a centre of the prosperous wool trade in the Middle Ages and there is much to explore in Suffolk which is a beautiful county. She wishes us a happy and successful Reunion – and recalls many happy memories of her years at SHS. *Sadly Mrs Chedlow's husband died very suddenly last May, just two months after the move. We share her sadness over her loss and send our condolences and good wishes – Ed.*

Mrs Maureen Hancock (1950s). I had a couple of falls before and after Christmas but on the mend now, treading very carefully. Intending to move – well, probably – to my home in Kerry. That part of Ireland is so lovely and you always feel safe. It is right by the sea and all day I can sit and look over the Atlantic as the sun beats down – quite magical. *Hope the move goes well & mind how you go. Send us a leprechaun – Ed!*

Mrs Joyce Sprigg (Patrick 1953-57). Once again, Mrs Sprigg has sent us a newsy letter from S Australia. With her sister she enjoyed a coach trip to Mildura in the Murray River area of NW Victoria – this was despite being left behind when the coach departed for Adelaide but they were soon rescued after a few frantic phone calls – what happened before mobile phones? She goes on to say she continues to be a co-ordinator of the support group for the blind and visually impaired and also produces plays for the Church – these are based on parables and miracles but her 'Snow White' managed to have six dwarfs well over 6ft and other 'minor' modifications, all of which were enthusiastically received! Droughts continue in inland Queensland and New South Wales but S Australia has been more fortunate – the harvest must have been good as the farmers haven't grumbled! Must be better than parts of Peru who have had a drought for 500 years!! *Very pleased to hear from you again – only mentioning you the other day when talking to Maureen – Valerie.*

Miss Anne Harris (1961-69). I have decided reluctantly that it is a long way to drive especially at this time of year when the weather is unpredictable. Once again it clashes with the Mothering Sunday weekend when I like to be at Norwich Cathedral where I worship regularly. My greetings to anyone who may remember me and especially to **Miss Sanderson**, **Miss Rowland** and **Michele Bovey** (née Sothcott). With every good wish for a happy day.

Mrs Janet Sumner (1961-80). I am not able to attend the Reunions these days as I cannot leave my husband for too long but will think of you. I hope the day goes well and it is always good to hear your news. My very best wishes to all.

Mrs A Orchard (1969-85). Mrs Orchard is unable to come to the Reunion.

****IN MEMORIAM ****

Miss Eileen Tucker 1943-52). The death in August 2005 of Miss Eileen Tucker meant we had lost another of our SHS teachers. She had been in a Nursing Home in Winchester for a while. When she first came to the High School she taught Religious Instruction and later on she also became involved with the music of the School. Miss Eileen as she was known was a brilliant piano player who sadly had to give up playing in the last few years due to arthritis in her hands. One of her choir, **Doreen Paul** (Trew 1947-52), has sent us

these memories of her: "In the years I was at the school we had an excellent choir, and as well as singing at school, we performed locally in competitions and events. She inspired us all and always insisted we smiled whilst singing. Eileen, to some of us, was not only our teacher but also a good friend. She gave up much of her leisure time for us, for example, if any of us wanted to enter in Slough Arts Festival competitions, she was always willing to come along and accompany us on the piano in the evenings. She was an excellent pianist. We also had a madrigal choir and entered competitions locally and in London at the weekends. In addition, we were invited to sing at social functions in the Slough district. On Saturday mornings Eileen would take a party of us to Ernest Reed classical concerts, and part of our choir was chosen to sing with the Ernest Reed choir at the Royal Festival Hall in 1951 at the Festival of Carols. These were all happy times and when Eileen decided to leave, (I believe it was in 1952), to take up a post in Theology, we were so upset and missed her very much - she was a very hard act to follow".

Miss Marguerite L White (1947-71). We had news of Miss White's death from her eldest nephew John, of whom she so often wrote in previous years. He writes: Marguerite died peacefully at St John's Residential Home in Kirk Hammerton, York, on 6 October 2005 and her funeral was held at the Harrogate Crematorium with all the family plus lots of people from the village present. It was a memorable occasion celebrating a long and happy life.

Marguerite was born in Reading on 18 May 1910 and won a scholarship to the Abbey School, Reading and subsequently a scholarship to Reading University where she took a degree in French and a Diploma in Education. During this time she also spent a year studying at the University of Nancy. She taught initially at King Edward's Grammar School in Coalville, Leicestershire, and then for the greater part of her career at Slough High School where she eventually became the Head of Modern Languages. In 1971 she retired to Felpham, Sussex and enjoyed many happy years by the sea, painting, tending her garden and travelling on holidays overseas with her close friends. Marguerite then spent her latter years in Yorkshire, closer to her family. She never married but took great delight and interest in the lives and activities of her nephews and their families. *Miss White was a dearly loved teacher and so many of her former pupils kept in touch with her and will be greatly saddened by the news of her passing. She always enjoyed hearing everyone's news and I know Old Paludians all over the world corresponded with her. Despite failing eyesight in the last few years, she never lost her zest for life and, in turn, our lives are the richer for having had the privilege of being taught by her – she my form mistress in my 5th year – oh, so many years ago! Thank you, John, for these words and I know just how much 'the High School girls' will want to send best wishes to all the family – Ed.*

Mrs Dwywnwen (Dee) Hudson (1968-81). Mrs Hudson's son, Matthew, has paid this tribute to his mother who died in November. "Dee Hudson taught English at SHS and for a period of time she served as Head of the English department. She died in November 2005 at St Mary's in Paddington. Two years earlier she had suffered a severe stroke which left her paralysed and unable to communicate easily and spent the last two years of her life being cared for at Leominster hospital, then West Eaton home and in the last months of her life she with her daughter **Alice** (SHS 1975-79)) in Queens Park, NW London.

After SHS she and her husband John moved to Leominster in Herefordshire. Here the pair spent 25 happy years during which they immersed themselves in the local community, being active members of local historical and horticultural societies and being regular attendees at the Priory Church. Mum found outlets for her creative side in wool spinning, dyeing and knitting. She also became an accomplished lace woman who created fabulously intricate designs to strain her eyes with. At the Millennium she cajoled the townspeople to produce the "Leominster Loop", a human chain of hands held around the town on Midsummer's Day. This in turn was celebrated by the planting in a local park of a tree acrostic - the initial letters of each tree name spelled the words "LEOMINSTER LOOP". She greatly enjoyed the company of her children and their children who now range in age from 0-18. In October 2004 her husband John passed away but Dee's last year was much brightened by the arrival of a grand-daughter, Gwen, who arrived very soon after her 83rd birthday in March last year". *Thank you, Matthew, for this lovely insight into such a talented lady whose skills must be so missed in Leominster. We send our sympathy to you and Alice and all the family – Ed.*

Included here are two tributes, one to Mrs Charlotte Frankl who taught at SHS between 1969 and 1971 and the second to her husband, Robert Frankl who was a Governor at Slough Grammar School – both died just a few days before last year's Reunion. I am grateful to Eva, David and Michael for the following – Ed.

Charlotte Frankl (1921-2005)

Charlotte grew up in pre-war Berlin. Her mother died when she was three and her father remarried. In July

1939 she came to England as a children's nurse, leaving the family (including her step-sister) behind. During the war she worked as a children's nurse at the Morris Cowley works in Oxford, where she met Robert Frankl; they married in 1943 and came to Slough in 1948. Charlotte qualified as a teacher at Newland Park in 1949 and taught at Montem (1958-60) and Lynch Hill primary schools (1960-69). During this time she also taught German in evening classes and was active in the Slough W.E.A. From 1969-71 she taught German at Slough High School and Burnham Grammar School. She ended her career teaching German and French at Warrenfield (now Beechwood) before taking early retirement due to ill health in 1977. When Robert was Mayor of Slough in 1973-74, she served as his Mayoress. From 1990 she suffered from progressively declining health, and Robert and Charlotte moved to a bungalow in Cippenham in 1995. Robert took over all of the housework, so that Charlotte was able to stay at home almost until the end. She died in Lady Astor Court nursing home in March 2005 at the age of 83.

Robert Frankl (1915-2005)

Robert was born in Teplice in Bohemia, then part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire and now part of the Czech Republic. His mother died when he was one, and his elder sister died in the flu epidemic of 1918. His father remarried and Robert had two half-brothers. He did his military service with the Czechoslovak army before moving to Prague when the Sudetenland was occupied in 1938. In March 1939 he flew to London in one of the last aeroplanes to leave Prague before the German occupation. His widowed stepmother and half-brothers died in Auschwitz. He worked as an agricultural labourer and as a milkman before he was allowed to join the British Army in 1944. He saw action in Italy in 1945 and completed his army service in India in 1947. Robert moved with Charlotte to Slough in 1948 on a government training scheme and worked for a number of companies on Slough Trading Estate as a draughtsman, working part-time from the age of 65 and finally retiring at 70. He was active in the Trade Union movement and the Labour Party, and from 1961-75 he was a councillor for his own Farnham North ward. As a councillor he was a governor of Slough Grammar School for a period with Dr Long, and he was on the appointment panel for Mr Painter. In 1973-74 he served as Mayor of Slough with Charlotte as his Mayoress. At this time he came into conflict with the local Labour Party over the implementation of Conservative government policy and was expelled from the party; he contested his council seat unsuccessfully in 1975 as an Independent Labour candidate. He joined the SDP in the year that it was founded, stood unsuccessfully as an Alliance candidate in local elections, and for many years after that he was a member of the Liberal Democrats. He was also active for local charities. He died in Wexham Park Hospital just eight days after Charlotte and nine days after his 90th birthday. After the funeral at Slough Crematorium, a civic reception was held at the Town Hall.

Charlotte and Robert's children **Eva Owen** (1955-62), **David** (1962-69) and **Michael** (1964-72) are all Old Paludians and regularly attend the annual Reunions.

I think you will agree these are two very inspiring stories - Ed.

Editor's Note: Sometimes we are unaware of the passing of members and are informed too late for inclusion in the Newsletter for that particular year. Even if a considerable time has elapsed we like to include notes about those who have died because their former colleagues, school friends and contemporaries like to recall happier times. The gift of a book is given to the School Library in remembrance: each book has a special nameplate recalling names and years at the School and in this way their presence lives on in a practical way. Where possible the Librarian tries to match the interests of the member with the subject matter of the book.

In something of a departure, there follows a feature article on one of the former boys from the Slough Secondary School. He started at SSS in 1926 – eighty years ago and in the same year as the birth of HM The Queen. He both enjoyed and excelled at sport: we have several school photographs of him including one showing him in the 1929-30 Football team, then as Captain of the 1930-31 First XI Football team and another in the 1931 First XI Cricket team. He was very fit, a dark haired, serious looking young man who was always 'part of the team' - an important factor in what was to follow.

LEST WE FORGET: Last autumn a letter appeared in the Daily Mail asking about the fate of a Hurricane pilot which the correspondent, then a 6-year old boy, had seen crash between two villages near his home in Kent during the Battle of Britain. A reply named him as Jack H Hammerton, who had been killed and was buried in Stoke Road cemetery in Slough. Jack was one of our 'boys' who had made the supreme sacrifice early in World War 2 and his name is inscribed along with so many others on the Roll of Honour in the foyer of the Grammar School. I replied to the Daily Mail giving brief details of him and the Old Paludians. Subsequently we received a letter from Dean Sumner who is Treasurer of the Battle of Britain Historical Society. His Society is featuring Jack's story in the Museum's exhibition this year and Dean was delighted to

discover photos of Jack on our website particularly the one showing him as Captain of the 1930/31 First XI football team. Much correspondence followed and Dean has written this poignant article for us. My grateful thanks to Dean – Valerie

Jack Hammerton – One of *The Few*

Jack Hammerton was born in Slough on 5 March 1915 to William and Maud Hammerton. The young Jack attended Slough Secondary School from 1926 until mid-1931, after which he gained employment with the Equitable Building Society. Yet for many young men living through the mid-1930's the prospect of involvement in another European war seemed inevitable, and Jack's conscience led him join the RAF Volunteer Reserve in March 1939 to become a pilot. Two days before Great Britain declared war against Germany on 3 September, Jack was called-up and thereafter sent to Woodley near Reading to begin his flying training.

With the summer of 1940 approaching, things looked bleak for Great Britain as it stood alone against the *Nazi* conquerors of Western Europe; expectation of attack by the German *Luftwaffe* was the feared prelude to invasion. With flying training completed and proudly wearing his 'pilot's wings', Sergeant Jack Hammerton was not thrust straight into combat despite the intensity of the *Battle of Britain*. His first posting was to Scotland in August 1940 with No.3 Squadron of RAF Fighter Command to fly Hawker Hurricanes, where he could gain a measure of operational experience before facing potentially stronger enemy forces. Despite minimal *Luftwaffe* activity in the far north, Jack took-off on his first recorded fighter patrol on 28 August, and in the weeks that followed he continued to build-up flying experience.

The month of September passed with the *Luftwaffe* failing to achieve air superiority over the RAF, but the attacks continued and increasingly so at night as *The Blitz* on British cities started in earnest. A dramatic change to Jack's RAF career occurred in early October 1940 when he was posted to No.615 *County of Surrey* Squadron at RAF Northolt near London. Aerial combat with the *Luftwaffe* was now a certainty! Jack's first major incident that month didn't occur against the enemy but in an accidental take-off collision on 17 October with a squadron colleague, though fortunately neither pilot was injured.

Jack's most successful day as a *Battle of Britain* fighter pilot soon followed on 29 October when he fired the guns of his fighter plane at the enemy. Jack recorded his clash against a *Junkers* Ju88 bomber in his own words submitted on an official combat report:-

".....I got separated from my section after enemy aircraft had been sighted. I saw an enemy aircraft...some considerable height above me, so followed and reached a height of about 20,000 feet when the enemy aircraft dived...I followed down to about 7,000 feet...I went in and delivered a short burst [of fire]...I saw that the machine was twin engined and apparently a Ju88. I again followed it [and] out to sea and got in a long burst from astern and last saw it losing height with clouds of smoke coming from it."

Three days afterwards in chilling foreboding of events soon to occur, Jack went mysteriously 'missing' during a fighter patrol, but he turned up safe in the evening. Then five days later on 5 November during another patrol, he went 'missing' again after apparently chasing some enemy aircraft. What exactly happened no-one knows because Jack did not return later that day, or during the next. A week passed with no news about his fate, but then, on 13 November, Jack was sadly discovered dead by his burnt-out Hurricane at a place called Noah's Ark near Seal, Kent. Why he crashed was never established.

Some fragments from his wrecked fighter are on display at the Shoreham Aircraft Museum near Sevenoaks, and hopefully visitors who see the small display to Jack's memory will be able to add further information to his story. Jack Hammerton now rests in a tended war grave at Stoke Road Cemetery in Slough. As a brave *Old Paludian* and one of *The Few* from the *Battle of Britain* he made the supreme sacrifice - Jack will never be forgotten.

The **Shoreham Aircraft Museum** can be found at 13 High Street, **Shoreham** Village, just west of the A225 north of Sevenoaks, Kent. It is open every Sunday from Easter to September between 10am – 5pm. with admission for adults £2.00. Children are free. Refreshments available. The Museum has a website at <http://www.shoreham-aircraft-museum.co.uk/> and all Old Paludians and friends will be warmly welcomed.

FOOTNOTE: Jack's name together with those of two other 'old boys' namely Arthur Giles Blake (died 29.10.1940) and Clifford Archibald Chew, (died 24.3.1945 and who flew fighter aircraft during that dramatic summer of 1940), are inscribed on the monument on London's Victoria Embankment to commemorate the Battle of Britain and which was unveiled by HRH The Prince of Wales in September 2005. Jack is also

named on the memorial atop the cliffs at Capel-le Ferne near Folkestone.

****1920s****

Dorothy Jardine (1925-30). Unable to walk now but looks forward to the Newsletter. *Dorothy is now in the same Care Home as Peter Bennett – I hope you sometimes exchange long-ago memories. We hope you keep as well as possible and send our good wishes to you – Ed.*

****1930s****

Peter Bennett (1930-36). Peter is still in Oxford House, Slough. *Very good wishes from us all – Ed.*

Gabrielle Moody (1931-36). It is always nice to get news of OPA members. I've nothing special to report as, at the age of 87 I don't get around as much as I used to! Remember me to all those who knew me through school and the OPA meetings.

George Pontin (1931-36). I will be bringing Nancy Bywater, my fiancée, to the Reunion once again – she enjoys meeting people she has made friends with over the years she has been attending. We do not get any younger, Nancy will be 89 this year and myself the toy boy at 87! We look forward to seeing you all.

Margaret Gillett (McGillivray 1932-37). Just a wee note to mention that Jim and I will (all being well) celebrate our Diamond Wedding on 27 March. Regrets at being unable to attend the Reunion however the very best of wishes to those who can. She reports that **Warwick Dyer** (1932-39) is 'ticking along' and sends his good wishes. *Our many congratulations on your Diamond Wedding – have a lovely day – Ed.*

Len Thorne (1934-36). Len will shortly be coming up to his 86th birthday and his niece Jean (**Bignell** née Climer 1939-46) tells us he has not been too well of late. After a couple of spells in hospital he is awaiting an operation. *We all send greetings to him and our hopes for an early recovery. I think you will enjoy some of the features in this issue, Len. Get well soon - Valerie*

Arthur Hancock (1935-40). New Life Member. Unfortunately Arthur is unable to attend the Reunion as he will be out of the country. He recalls the following: I will always remember the term before the opening of the new school. We had to go between William Street and Lascelles Road for games – some walked and some caught the bus. I remember walking that particular day and reaching the bus stop by the Lascelles Road turning, when a blonde headed boy – I'm pretty certain his name was **Hatchman** – had run across the road behind the bus and went straight under one coming the other way. It was traumatic and the memory of his death will remain with me always. I wonder if anyone else remembers that day?

Mary Adams (Harvey 1935-43). I hope you have a very enjoyable Reunion. Please remember me to anyone who has a long memory!

John Ware (1936-41). I am sorry that I will not be able to attend the Annual Reunion on 25 March but I send my best wishes for a happy and successful day. I am keeping in good health, and still working virtually full-time in my accountancy practice in Burnham and I still have contacts with a number of Old Paludians. *Glad to know you keep well and busy - it keeps us young – Ed!*

Frank Robotham (1937-42). I will not be able to attend the reunion as – hopefully – on that day I will be enjoying the occasion of my 80th birthday in anticipation of yet another year on the planet! My apologies and best wishes to all who might remember me. **Paddy May** (1937-44) and I keep in touch and exchange such news of our peers which might be available. Being of the same vintage we share many fond memories of sport at school and of members of the Old Pals XIs in all sports subsequently. I have been clearing my clutter recently and found lots of papers and references to many departed friends including **Stan Jones** whose efforts, almost single-handedly, but with the backing of a few stalwarts, re-established the Men's Old Pals after the War. *What memories indeed. We all send our greetings to Frank for his 80th birthday – Ed.*

Ian (Bronc) Bryant (1937-42). Regret being unable to be with you in body but will be there in spirit. Trust all will go well and everyone has an enjoyable and entertaining time with many memories revisited and relived. My regards to those of my era particularly **George Pontin**, **Kenny Martin**, **Paddy May** and my namesake on the welcome team, **Ken Bryant**. Best wishes from Spain for a successful Reunion.

Rene Elfer (Bubb 1937-42). I keep busy – I have a large family, many of whom live nearby so I'm very involved with grandchildren and great grandchildren. For over 28 years I have been a hospital volunteer at the Terrebonne General Medical Centre. The hospital volunteer system in American hospitals is more structured than in UK. They are assigned to departments and perform many more duties. I am in charge of the reception desk and work 3 full days each week. If a volunteer can't come in, I have to get someone else in or do the job myself! Duties include manning the phones, taking care of visitors' needs and questions, obtaining computer information for visitors and staff plus anything else that comes up! It is very worthwhile and the other volunteers have become almost like another family. We all enjoy it. *Last year we were all concerned for Rene's safety when the Hurricane Katrina struck New Orleans in Louisiana. Rene was some miles from the eye of the storm and her home only suffered minor damage although she did leave to stay with her son for several days. We were all pleased she and all the family were safe. What a very busy life you lead, Rene – Ed.*

Iris (Betty) Hull (Burnett 1937-42). This has been an eventful year. I suffered a stroke and heart attack, plus thrombosis in the left leg just after returning from holiday in June last year. Recovery is expected to take up to two years. Tony has been a great support, as driver, comforter and general factotum. I have excellent medical help, physiotherapy at our local hospital, and am making good progress, although it is frustratingly slow. The prayerful ones among you are asked to please remember me! No more holidays abroad for a bit. My sister Jean (**Bostock** 1936-41) has been ill and is currently in hospital in Derby, receiving radiotherapy treatment. Warmest good wishes to hockey and tennis players (ah, happy days). Don't forget to come and visit if you are in the area – just phone (01308 422604) first. *Betty lives in Bridport in Dorset. We are very sorry to hear of your health problems, Betty, and we all send our good wishes for a return to full health as soon as possible – Ed.*

Barbara Longman (Wardall 1937-42). Sorry not to attend due to distance and it is my 80th Birthday. *We wish Barbara a Happy Birthday – Ed.*

Derek (Del) Elliott (1937-44). Had intended to make the Reunion last year following my knee replacement but got rushed into hospital the night before with a heart attack. Touching wood and fingers crossed etc, I hope to make it this year on 25th and maybe meet up with a few old friends again. *We look forward to seeing you and please don't go to such drastic lengths to get out of it this year! Toes crossed too – Ed.*

Paddy May (1937-44). Hopes to attend the Reunion.

Pamela Main (Sheppard 1938-43). Sincere apologies for not being with you but best wishes to all especially to '5B'. Have a great day.

Peter and Joy Egelstaff (Peter 1939-43 and Joy [Salter] 1938-43). We look forward to receiving the book *School Ties* as we know so many who attended the School from its beginning. Best wishes to all.

Joyce Amoroso (Kirtland 1939-44). Unable to attend – again – as I need to rest more at present with a bit of a heart abnormality. My husband keeps well at nearly 82. The family are all fine; one grand-daughter has a place at Cambridge, another at a Film and Stage school in Zurich and another one in a similar school in London. My grandson Richard is in his second year at Warwick and loving it. I hope you all have a great day at the Reunion.

Mollie Randall (Macrae 1939-44). It has been a difficult year as I had a fall and although no bones were broken, it was discovered I had a heart condition. I'm gradually getting about a bit more with a 'rollator' which is a wheeled frame/trolley with a seat if I am tired! I am now a great-grandmother for the very first time – Joe was born in July. I have to accept the inevitable, so I have my name on a waiting list for a very nice residential home in Cambridge. Not that I want to move there but the option is there in case I need it. Best wishes to everyone. *We send our good wishes for better health this year – Ed.*

Dugald J (Jim) Ross (1939-44). New Life Member. Hope to be with you on 25th along with **David T G Morgan** of our year, before my wife and I fly off to Madeira a couple of days later. *Jim a.k.a. Rocky or Rossie or Dug, sent us a fantastic résumé of his life at the School with so many names of both the masters and the boys – alas far too numerous to mention as the account runs more 6 pages long. As he says, a good job it was 60 years ago because if it was yesterday, he couldn't have remembered! Senior moments Jim – join our club! He does mention the pavilion in Lascelles (see p18 and the Civic Society request) when having acquired a key to the cricket kit store in the said pavilion, he played cricket with **Derek & Alan Rose, John Burnand, Clive Cook** and others in the long summer evenings. So many names and memories – I will try to type it out and if those of you reading this recall Jim or were in class with him, then subject to his permission perhaps you would like a copy and we can put you all back in touch. Meanwhile the account will*

also be carefully stored for the next book. Valerie.

Betty Absolon (Chapman 1939-45). I regret I shall not be attending the Annual Reunion this year but send good wishes to all classmates through the Newsletter. After 45 years in the same house in Rowlands Castle I have finally admitted the need to downsize. I hope to stay in the village but have not yet found a property so am for the moment renting a flat. With a new grandchild expected in March this will be the ninth and they range in years from 0 -23yrs. It is marvellous that it is still possible to make contact 67 years after starting at the High School – thank you all so much. *Good luck with the house hunting – Ed.*

Norman (Monty) Reeves (1939-45). Will be delighted to attend and look forward to meeting up with everyone. The 'dim' car shown as a watermark on the notepaper is one of my old Jowetts – wonder how many of the OP's still play around like I do? *Good for you – I could just see two headlights looking at me and the number plate – should I keep clear I wonder? We look forward to seeing you – Ed.*

Jean Bignell (Climer 1939-46). We were sorry to learn Jean had lost her husband in February after a very long illness – we send her our condolences at this very sad time.

****IN MEMORIAM****

John Gunn (1931-36). We reported the death of John Gunn on 2 March last year in Chichester but it was too late for the inclusion of any tribute in the 2005 Newsletter. It is the end of an era for the five Gunn brothers, all went to the School - the youngest, Colin, the only one to go to Lascelles Road and now all five brothers have gone. John was very artistic and his career was as a Teacher of Art in the Chichester area. After retirement, he took up pottery and was equally well respected in this field becoming a brilliant tutor at the West Dean College, near Chichester which is affiliated to the University of Sussex, and is renowned for teaching past and present crafts in a splendid country setting. All this came after John's very distinguished wartime career; he spent 3 days and nights on the beaches at Dunkirk and in 1944 he saw service in Burma - notably in the Battle for Kohima. He was on the infamous tennis court over which the Kohima War Cemetery is built – the markings are preserved by the CWGC - and of course the Epitaph has the legendry lines *'When you go home tell them of us, and say, For their tomorrow we gave our today.'* Well, John did come home but would never speak of those times – he was a man of peace and carved out a wonderful career using his artistic talents. *My thanks to Margaret Gillett (McGillivray 1932-37) for this information – Ed.*

Margaret Black (Sands 1932-37). At the age of 84, Margaret Black died on 15 December 2005. She was a member of the legendry Sands family all of whom played such a large part in the corporate life of the Secondary School, Grammar School and High School in the early days. **Joyce Egelstaff** (Walker 1937-42) pays this tribute: Margaret was a pupil of the Slough Secondary School initially and then at Slough High School, once the split came in 1936. After WW2 had finished she qualified as a teacher and her special interests over the years were drama and dancing. She married Charles Black in 1949 and after teaching for a few years at Tunbridge Wells they moved to West Wickham in Kent in 1950 where she remained until her death. They had 3 sons and in time, grandsons all of whom were a source of joy and pride to Margaret and Charles. Sadly in later years they both had health problems. Her death closes a chapter on the Sands dynasty at the High School and leaves her family and many friends touched and enriched by her life which was lived to the full in duty to God and others around her. Margaret was very supportive of her old school and was a very generous benefactor of the Old Paludians. She will be missed and remembered with love and affection. *We send our condolences to Charles and all the family: our thoughts are with you – Ed.*

Joan Clack (Waite 1932-38). Joan sadly died in September – she had always been great letter writer sending news each year which were full of fun expressing the hope to attend a Reunion one day. In 2002, the date of the Reunion fell on her 80th birthday and she wrote *"how we enjoyed ourselves back in our schooldays and we got up to such antics in the long summer holidays. Am I glad I was young then, we had such FUN!!"* I remember her 2003 letter when she asked if her former school friends recalled the day **Miss Gwen Allen**, the Biology mistress, *"introduced us one summer time to some very over-ripe cod's heads and eyes!!! I remember the reaction was quite vociferous"*. A year later Joan said she was still busy keeping up with the garden, allotment and Red Cross work! Her daughter, Liz Shrives has been kind enough to tell us a little more of her full and remarkable life: Joan achieved much in her life time. She made a contribution in so many different ways and touched and shaped peoples' thinking and values. She was indeed a remarkable and inspirational woman in all the roles she took on in her life. As our mother, she provided a home which was a veritable mix of market garden, jam factory, bakery, brewery, Cats refuge all with the interactions of frequent comings and goings of people on bicycles, horses and motorbikes. Every school holiday, we would have our 'Days Out' involving the preparation of a picnic, a bus journey and a walk to one of the local beauty

spots. We usually came back armed with bags of mushy bilberries and purple lips and hands! A sorry sight! These magical days gave each of us a lasting deep love and respect of the countryside which is alive for each of us today.

Mum devoted a huge part of her life to the work of the Red Cross receiving a commendation for long service which was covered in the local press and for which she was invited to Buckingham Palace. We all have a lasting memory of being bandaged and manipulated into recovery positions and suffer the full range of mock treatable injuries. It was the only time in our lives we could actually get away with moaning in her presence. The serious point to this is that she touched the lives of hundreds of young people both through the Red Cross training and the Duke of Edinburgh awards scheme. She also made a huge contribution to fund raising. If we had all the statistics we know they would be awesome. Her love of the outdoors was resurrected when she joined the Ramblers Association and the Long Distance Walkers Association. Through this she found great joy in the latter part of her life and, as with anything she did, Mum worked tirelessly, organising people, keeping footpaths open and she also achieved some remarkable personal feats completing gruelling Challenge Walks. Her illness deprived her of many of the things that she loved in life; the outdoors, her home and her beloved cat Mogsie, and eventually her mobility. Who can forget the wicked glow behind her smiles? *Thank you so much Liz, for this insight into Joan's life after her schooldays - obviously her great sense of fun prevailed in everything she did. We will remember her during our Reunion when we think of absent friends - Ed.*

David Neale (1934-40). With much regret, we have learned that David passed away peacefully in hospital on 17 December 2005. He was 82 years old. For a number of years he lived in the Woodford Green area with his wife Ann, daughter, son-in-law and the 3 grandchildren. The main thrust of his life was his Christian Faith and after retirement in 1989 he kept busy sharing in the Bible presentation work of Gideons International, concentrating on giving the New Testament to children in some 44 secondary schools in the NE London and Essex areas. He was passionate about cricket and having flown Wellingtons during WW2, his interest in aeroplanes never left him. Neither David nor Ann have been able to attend recent Reunions as the years have taken their toll. More recently David's mobility was seriously affected by Parkinson's disease. Our condolences to Ann and his family including brother Robert in New Zealand. He will be remembered at the Reunion 2006.

John Mabbott (1935-41). John attended S.S.S. in 1935 and S.G.S 1936-1941. He left to join the Westminster Bank and started at Slough Trading Estate Branch. He joined the R.A.F. in 1943 and started to train for aircrew, he was in Southern Rhodesia when the war finished and was re-mustered to cabin crew and flew to Hong Kong and Japan before his demob in May 1947. Once again with the Westminster Bank he restarted his career and finished in 1984 as a Branch Manager. He was an original member of the Old Pals' hockey club and played for them until 1968. He was elected Treasurer of the Old Pals' Association (Men's Section) in 1949 and later as Treasurer for the Old Pals Ltd. and finally retired after forty years in the two posts. John was always an excellent pianist having been taught at the Guildhall School of Music and played in the School Orchestra and at Old Pals dances during and after the war, which were then held at the school. He continued to play to a high standard throughout his life. *We thank brother Alan for this tribute to John and in doing so, pass on our condolences to both Alan and John's family - Ed.*

Mavis Mackinnon (Cooper 1935-41).

Mavis had been a member of the Old Paludians for many years but had been unable to attend recent Reunions as she found travelling difficult. She had sent her good wishes to us last year and it was a shock to learn she had passed away in mid-April, so soon after the Reunion. She was an avid collector and her collection of silver spoons and bells were her pride and joy – even if difficult to keep clean latterly! Gardening was also a great love and she always enjoyed caring for her flowers. There had also been a family of fox cubs that had set up home under the garden shed and these were a good source of entertainment. We offer our condolences to her daughters and the other family members.

****1940s****

Geoffrey Taylor (1940-44). New Life Member. After leaving school I worked as a clerk in London for 2 years and was then called up for National Service in the Army from 1946-49. I then went to Australia – for £10 – and was there from 1950-52 and from thence to New Zealand until 1960. I also had 5 years there from 1965-70 and trained as a teacher whilst in NZ. I got three degrees by studying part-time either in NZ or London and I have taught in further education in widely differing places such as Eton College, universities in NZ and likewise in England. Three of my brothers followed me to the Grammar School, **Kenneth** (1943-48) is now an Australian living in Perth, **Raymond aka Codge** ((1946-51) and **Mike** (1947-51) who is an Old

Paludian and now a New Zealander living in Auckland. My daughter **Jillian** also attended SHS for a short time in 1965. I can recall most of the teachers by name during the war years – only one or two escape me!

Muriel Bembridge (Cooke 1940-46). I am sorry I cannot attend the Reunion this year and hope it all goes well. *Our thanks to Muriel for sending us a long list of names for the 1946 SHS photo. We are always glad to receive names but Ian has a backlog he is trying to get through so apologies if there is a time lag before they are listed on the website. Ian would be glad of anyone who could help in this task.*

Evelyn Greenwood (Gibbons 1941-46). I hope to be able to come – health permitting! Congratulations to the Committee and the Old Paludians for supporting the School in so many ways.

Betty Wess (Cohen 1941-46). Betty came forward saying she had an early SHS photograph. I know that a couple of years ago several Old Paludians were wondering if anyone had news of her. If you wish to make contact with Betty, please contact Valerie in the first instance on 01628 605411 and she will put you in touch. *Betty is coming to terms with computing and enjoys the ease with which she can contact friends – she says she was nicknamed Coco. Thank you for getting in touch and glad you are enjoying the website – Ed.*

Fred Collins (1941 to 1947). I regret that I will not be attending the Reunion and Annual General Meeting of the Old Paludians this year. Distance, of course, is the primary factor and Mary and I only get over to England every few years. I wish all those attending a very pleasant reunion and hope they take away fond memories of those days when they attended Slough Grammar School as I did, when I was at the event a few years ago. Mary and I are still enjoying our retirement at Parksville on Vancouver Island, British Columbia, doing some travelling and generally keeping well although beginning to show signs of our age! We keep active in community organizations, myself in Freemasons, Rotary and Probus and Mary in Embroidery groups, Eastern Star and Trefoil Guild. We still have our aeroplane and go flying whenever the weather permits. **I do have one question.** During my time at S.G.S., I started in 2nd Form, continued through 3rd and 4th forms to Lower 5th, then in the following year to Upper 5th Form. Why was there no 1st Form and why the title of Lower and Upper 5th? *Working on this one, I will let you know - Valerie*

Gwen Gale (Knight 1941-47). My thanks to all the members who have continued to keep in touch, particularly at Christmas. Regards to all and best wishes for Reunion Day. *Our good wishes to Gwen who is still not too well but remains very cheerful - Ed.*

Audrey Walden (1941-47). I am unable to attend but glad to hear all news of the Old Paludians.

Kathy Clark (Jamieson 1942-48). I am looking forward to this year's Reunion and seeing everyone again. I missed last year – for the first time!

(Ivy) June Bordon (Jardine 1942-49). I am sorry I won't be able to join you as I have been unwell but hope to be really well later in the year. *We hope you will be better soon and send our good wishes – Ed.*

Alan Mabbott (1942-50). Congratulations to Alan on being awarded a Paul Harris Fellowship by the Rotary Club of Burnham Beeches last Spring. It was given in recognition of his support and work with a number of local institutions including amongst others the Royal British Legion – and the Old Paludians.

Margaret Paine (Paine 1943-48). Following my request in the last Newsletter I managed to contact Thelma Ricketts (Banister) after a phone call from an Old Pal. She lives in Sherbourne, Dorset and we had hoped to meet at the Reunion after 58 years but she has had to decline as her son has booked a holiday to France. Better luck next year when we will **all** be 75!!! Grandchildren all doing well at school. My eldest, Sam, is at senior school now and shortly to overtake me in height much to his delight. All six are members of the Scout Movement and William was the youngest scout of 10,000 to attend last year's Jamboree. My daughter **Judy** and family are moving house soon but will still be in Wokingham. My faithful companion is 13 now but still enjoys his daily walks in Burnham Beeches. *You are both about the same age, so don't make him run too fast to catch up with you – remember his doggy years!!* Special thanks to Valerie for all her hard work over the years to produce a wonderful Newsletter. *Thank you, Margaret – Ed.*

Mary Haydock (File 1943-51). 2006 started for me with a hip replacement on January 5th - so far all is well, but I can not drive until I get the "all clear" from my surgeon. So I will not make this year's reunion. I am pleased to have more contact with **Elizabeth Green** (née Brown) She joined SHS in 1946 and left Slough in 1952 and was a "£10 immigrant" to New Zealand where she lived for many years. She now lives in Thetford Norfolk. We hope to have a mini- reunion very soon with **Jean Cartwright** (née Berriman) Elizabeth, **Judy Zannini** (née Hawes) and possibly **Doreen Lambert**. In May I plan to attend Newland Park College reunion for the first time and hope to meet up with **Jean Thomas** (ex SHS '43 entry) I wonder if there will be any

new members from 1943 attending this year? I will await the newsletter in anticipation and hope! Very best wishes for a successful day to you all.

Jill Sayer (Emmett 1944-47). The postman managed to lose her invitation for the Reunion (or did the dog eat it?), so, she has booked to go away the weekend of 25 March. Jill sends her good wishes to her year group.

Ann Neale (Keeping 1945-50). We send our condolences to Ann on hearing of David's untimely death shortly before Christmas - please see the **IN MEMORIAM** for David (1934-40) above. Ann has sent along 6 early SGS School Magazines for the archives. The most exciting result of this kind gesture, is that three of them contained previously unknown Team photographs, one of which depicts a young David in the 1939 (Spring Term) 1st XI Hockey Team (all three photographs are now up on the website). *Thank you for the magazines and we are all glad you were able to celebrate your Golden Wedding last March – these memories will be so special for you – Ed.*

Trevor and Christine Taylor (Trevor 1945-51 and Christine [Scott] 1950-55). Regretfully neither Christine nor I are able to attend the Reunion this year. We met up with **Philip and Janet Seal** on our way back from Devon after Christmas and had a very pleasant chin-wag. Good Luck to all for a good Reunion Day.

Margaret Mama (Nunn 1945-52). *Margaret will be at the Reunion – Ed.*

Pat Mills (Hunt 1945-52). New Life Member. I am sorry I will be unable to attend the Reunion but was delighted to hear from you. I have had no contact since about 1960 – I have moved about this country and Australia over the years and lost contact with all my school friends. I was given a copy of 'School Ties' by a cousin and it was a delight to read. So many lovely memories of my SHS days which I always enjoyed. It was good to read about school life in the 1950s as well as news of the staff. I used to live almost opposite Valerie Storie – I wonder if she remembers me? *Indeed I do, Pat, what a small world. Glad to know you are now a member and that you enjoyed the book – best wishes from Valerie.*

Muriel Aird (Bubb 1946-53). Once again it is time to make the annual pilgrimage from Dorset to Berkshire to see old friends and catch up on all the news. My sister **Christine (Robilliard)** 1955-60) will accompany me. We will come with our husbands and spend a few days in Windsor visiting some of our favourite places, one being the Theatre Royal, which we always enjoyed so much when we lived in the area. My year has been rather quiet, my husband having recovered quite miraculously after several years of ill-health. We gave up our dance business so we no longer teach or run dance events. Now, we can do what we like, when we like and we are revelling in our newfound freedom. Our sister **Rene (Elfer)** 1937-42) can't make the journey from her home in Louisiana USA but sends her best wishes to everyone who remembers her and hopes we all have a lovely day – see above for her news. She looks forward to the Newsletter plus any extra reports on the day's happenings. There are several 'girls' from her year who we see at the Reunions and we take photos to send to Rene. We keep in touch by email – how did we manage without it? Looking forward to seeing everyone and best wishes to those who do not make it this year.

Anne Stephens (Hales 1946-53). I am really sorry that I am unable to be with you this year but we shall be away on holiday celebrating our 70th birthdays – and so I hope you all have a super and enjoyable day. I also hope to be with you next year. Best regards to you all.

Philip Seal (1947-51). Still enjoying the rural life in Devon away from the hustle of Berks and Bucks. Delighted to have as visitors, for a brief spell, **Trevor and Christine Taylor** who called in on their way home from a West Country holiday break. My email address is held by Valerie for any wishing to contact me, so if you are travelling down the A30 and passing near Honiton then call in.

Malcolm Hellings (1947-52). A family reunion in Wales means there is a clash of dates so regretfully I will not be able to attend the OP Reunion on 25 March. It will be the first one I have missed for ages – hope the rest of my 'gang' will have a good day. *Bad timing but see you next year. Malcolm has a special request on behalf of Slough Civic Society see page 18. Malcolm has been searching the old local papers in the Local Studies section of Slough Library and has found fascinating pieces about the old schools – these will be passed over to David Rogers for the Archives. E.g. The total cost of building and equipping SGS was £30,000 which is equivalent to approx £1.16million in 2002- Ed.*

Kitty Fleming (Pleace 1947-52). This will be the first Reunion I have attended since about 1957!! I recently came across a long photo of SHS and would be very interested to add some names to the faces as well as perhaps meeting up with some of the people from that time. *I have two of the long photos, 1952 being one of them! If you have access to the internet and our website (www.oldpaludians.org) there are lots of names*

listed for that picture and I always have to search for myself. If you have no access, pop along to see Ian Cairns at the Reunion – he has the computers and you can match up names with faces and maybe add a few as well – Ed.

Michael and Shirley Redford (Michael 1947-53 and Shirley [Collins] 1951-55). Unable to come this year as Mike is awaiting the call from the hospital for a hip replacement – any time before June so can't make plans in case.... ! We hope to be there in 2007. *Hope the operation is successful – Ed.*

Malcolm Doyle (1948-52). Unable to join us from New York this year owing to a family wedding in New Zealand and business commitments. *We hope you will be able to join us again next year - Ed.*

Brian and Sue Barnes (Brian 1948-55 and Sue [Pattimore] 1952-59). We very much regret that we are unable to attend this year's Reunion. Best wishes to all friends and hope you have a great Reunion.

Tony and Shirley Jones (Tony [1948-55] and Shirley [Stainer] 1948-54). News of former classmates at SHS and SGS has trickled in over the past year. I have heard from **Jean Croft** née Kirton and **Peter Burgess** also wrote – his wife and I lived near each other when we were young children – what a small world. Tony and I look forward to this year's Reunion hoping that at last we might meet more 'old classmates' and friends from school.

John Alder (1949-54). The sun wins this year and John will be unable to join us from his home in Spain – the Reunion falls between two planned UK visits this Spring. Best wishes for a successful day.

Peter Burgess (1949-54). After missing last year, I am looking forward to this year's Reunion with our Upper VB crowd, albeit with **Len** missing – better planning next year, Len! Still searching for the elusive couple of names – can you help? See **LOST** section on page 21.

Len Jackson (1949-54). Len had so hoped to come over from Chicago this year but family circumstances meant it was not to be. He writes: We will not be in England for the reunion, I am sorry about that but I am coming with my son Paul in the autumn. He wants to visit Slough and Windsor to see where we were born and raised. Thinking of the sixties - we are going to hang out at the Crown & loll about and drink tea. *(You'll be lucky!!! - Ed)* If you have a UVB mini Reunion lunch do give my regards to the lads and see if we could do another when we are over, then that would be truly super. *I hope that we can meet in Slough, Len, but the Crown 'ain't wot it used to be' I am afraid. It has even altered in the 2 years since you have been over! However take care and hopefully see you soon – V.*

****IN MEMORIAM****

Molly Smith (McKeown 1942-48). Molly sadly died last August – her husband rang to tell us at the time. She had been a member for a number of years and lived in Marlow Bottom.

****1950s****

Pam Richardson (Hammond 1950-55). We have a family gathering on 25th so unable to come but I trust the meeting will be as successful as usual. *To have 4 sisters all at SHS during the 1950s was quite a record and Pam brings us up-to-date with their news.* The Hammond sisters: **Kay** (Springer) continues to live in USA having moved from Idaho to Alabama. After a period of ill-health she is now fit and well. **Pam** lives in Taplow and likes to travel when she can and is going out to see Kay in June. **Brenda** (Whitston) is currently enjoying a tour of New Zealand but has been living in Wendover since her husband retired from the RAF. **Jill** was widowed 4 years ago but remains settled in Swindon. Best wishes to everyone.

Sylvia Legg (Naylor 1951-56). Yet again I have to apologise for my absence. It would be very nice to be able to attend and meet up with everyone, but, although I intend to go to UK some time next year it won't be until June at the earliest. I hope everything goes well as usual and that the weather is kind to you. I shall think of you all and enjoy reading all about the Reunion on the very informative OP website at a later date. Thank you too for the newsletters received by email and by post. I appreciate the trouble you take to make sure they are delivered. *Sylvia lives in Adelaide so we hope she sends us some Australian sunshine - Ed.*

Bill Dacke (1952-56). Having retired from the House-team at Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre, together with my wife Eileen, we have gone into semi-retirement, working part time as caretakers of St Mark's Church

Hall in Little Common, close to Bexhill-on-Sea. Apologies for missing the AGM again – the end of March will be hectic as we fly off on 31st on a month's trip to the USA and New Zealand. Best wishes to all old friends. *Hope you both have a good trip – Ed.*

Colin Dutton (1952-57). Colin has let us know that he will not be attending the Reunion and AGM this year. He is emigrating to Barbados in March where he will be marrying the mother of two former SGS pupils - Dr Caroline Mahon and Dr Charles Mahon. *Our many congratulations, a far cry from Slough – Ed.*

Rosemary Dickens (Bowles 1952-58). I am sorry that I am not able to attend the reunion on 25th March this year as we will be away. My husband George and I retired last May having served as Salvation Army officers for 44 and 43 years respectively. We both retain our rank of Major in retirement as our commissions are for a lifetime. We moved from Uxbridge to Peterborough last September and are very happy in our new environment. As members of The Salvation Army we have a 'ready made family' wherever we go so that made moving easier - we had lived in our previous house for 31 years! We are enjoying being able to 'sit back' and have not taken on any jobs at the local Salvation Army at present - we may well volunteer for something in coming days! There are a lot of activities at The Salvation Army so I attend the monthly flower arranging and craft evenings and we both enjoy the carpet bowling on a Friday afternoon. I have also been able to link up with an art class so that I can pursue my painting, and enrol for a sugar craft course at a local cake decorating supplies shop. Our son and his wife are also Salvation Army Officers and have recently been appointed to Nottingham so that now we have all moved, we are a lot nearer which has pleased our granddaughter. We hope to be able to see them a lot more often. In September/October we are planning our belated 'retirement holiday', visiting Australia, New Zealand and Canada so that is something to look forward to. Greetings to all who remember me.

Carolyn Mason (King 1952-58). I am unlikely to be able to attend this year but best wishes to all.

Betty Lambourne (Milsom) (1953-1958). I am really looking forward to this year's Reunion and meeting the class of '53 again, especially as I missed last year's reunion. It is good fun exchanging news and reminiscing about school days. Reading "School Ties" brought back so many memories; thanks to all the excellent contributors. Year by year our numbers grow; in 2004 our group comprised **Christine Axford**, **Pat Oldcorn** (née Horwood), **Anne Jerram** (née Smith), **Valerie Gomersall** (née Watts), **Jackie Dibling** (née Hales), **Janet Quinton** (née Boulter), **Jane Brooking** (née Lake), **Linda Hunter** (née Gamble), **Avril Sutton** (née Esson) **Jackie Nicholls** (née Brown); in 2005 the group was joined by **Linda Willis** (née Partleton) and Gillians Adams (née Gaffney), so be encouraged to come along - there will be familiar faces. We are looking for a few others – see page 21. I retired three years ago after 15 years working as Mayor's Secretary at the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead. Life has been very busy since then, as retirement has given me the opportunity to concentrate more on my hobbies, which include singing, photography, walking, cycling and travel, and to join various associated clubs. I sing with the Royal Free Singers in Windsor, and very much enjoy their foreign concert tours, so far Portugal and Belgium, with a ten day visit to Estonia and Latvia to look forward to this summer.

Avril Sutton (Esson 1953-58). I have enjoyed meeting up with old friends at the last two Reunions but unfortunately cannot make the 25 March meeting this year. Greetings to all who remember me. With my husband of 40 years, I have lived in Beaconsfield since 1972 and for over 20 years have worked as a part-time Secretary at the National Foundation for Educational Research at The Mere, Upton Park, Slough. Some of life's pleasures for us include sailing, travel and our two small grandsons.

Christine Robilliard (Bubb 1955-60). Will be attending with her sister Muriel.

Celia Johns (Nelmes 1955-62). I am still working full time for Business in the Community and have just managed to negotiate a further two-year extension to my secondment from HM Revenue & Customs...., so I do not need to go back until September 2008. After that it's all downhill until I retire in January 2009! Since the last Reunion I have been elected as Hon Treasurer of the National Association of Choirs, and what with singing in two choirs as well as being Secretary of one, my social life is fairly hectic. Our son and daughter-in-law presented us with a little granddaughter just after Christmas, a cousin for our two grandsons, and needless to say I am a doting grandma again, looking forward to yet more baby-sitting. My best wishes to everyone from SHS, whether attending or not, and hope to see many of you at the Reunion.

Ruth Sheppard (Clark 1955-62). The year 2005 proved a difficult one in many ways. My husband, John, recovered from his heart bypass and pneumonia, but needed a hernia operation in December. We became proud grandparents to Max in July, but sadly our son's marriage is already breaking up and we have him living with us since September and the baby for half the week. It's wonderful to have so much contact, but

not in these circumstances – and it's very tiring. We both continue to keep up our singing – I gave another Recital in Church in November and we still do our Old Tyme Music group, mainly in local nursing homes. I still do my quilting and am pleased to see **Gillian Angel** (1945-47) there, and recently my friend **Marion Davis** (Wykeham) has joined too. I was thrilled to hear from **Christine Seaville** (Herman 1957-62) recently by email and look forward to meeting her again in March after 44 years (no!!) along with other friends.

Margaret Pemble (Arthur 1955-63). New Life Member. Will be joining us from Dundee and will be meeting up with **Christine Seaville** (Herman 1957-62) from Canada – see below

Debbie Wright (Bishop 1956-62). I've at last returned to York having finally removed the tenant from my house and becoming homeless in the meanwhile! After a very trying time things have now settled down. I now have 2 grandsons of 6 and 3, a part-time permanent job as a medical secretary which I love, play in a local chamber group and take conversation classes for local immigrants, plus being on various committees for my local Quaker meeting. I intend to write to my local MP in the hope of changing the law so that no-one else finds themselves in the position I was in last year – the law was never on my side and it was *my* house!! *I am pleased it has finally worked out for you and I wonder what you do in your spare time!!!! Ed.*

Bob Moss (1956-64). Bob recently returned to old stamping grounds and he met up with **Christopher Tierney** (SGS 1970s) on a walk along the Jubilee River in the Dorney/Eton Wick area. Christopher is currently teaching science at a school near Haywards Heath and sends best wishes to anyone who remembers him. *And it was the coldest day of the year – Ed.*

Diana Davis (King 1957-62). Regrettably, I'm not able to make the Reunion this year, as Brian and I have moved over to Southern Ireland to live, in our retirement. We have moved to a lovely rural retreat in County Galway and are currently settling in very well: we only moved last October, so we have plenty to keep us busy for a while! Our daughters are all happily settled with their husband/partners. Susie is still living and teaching in Vienna, Jacqui is currently at home bringing up her daughter Jessica, who is now 3 years old and Kerry is working in Human Resources, and continuing with her singing in her spare time. I hope you all have a lovely day, and I look forward to reading all the news in the Newsletter.

Christine Seaville (Herman 1957-62). At long last Christine will be in UK at the time of the Reunion and will be meeting up with friends. She lives in Victoria in British Columbia and had a remarkable serendipity experience last summer. She was invited to a 'bridge' get-together comprising a group of people who play via the internet. There were several nationalities present locations including a lady from Dundee, as well as from various US states. In talking to the Scottish lady, Christine said she was from Penn originally (where her parents live) and then they were interrupted and the moment passed. The following day, there was another get-together – but let Christine tell you in her own words what happened next: The next day I went to pick her and her husband up and she said "You haven't lost your Bucks accent - I'm from Slough." I said "I went to SHS - and lo and behold she was **Margaret Arthur now Pemble** (1955-63) in my year, who was GK on the same hockey team as I was RW for a few years. Unbelievable. It made it for me, and probably her too, as we talked a lot after that - anyway the outcome is – we are both coming to the Reunion – one from Canada, the other from Scotland!" *It is a remarkable story of being in the right place at the right time and I am sure you will all have a great time at the Reunion – Ed.*

Shelagh Rothero (Jacques 1957-63). I am very sorry not to attend the Reunion this year. I will be skiing in France and hoping not to break a leg! Best wishes to everyone and have a good day. *I am very pleased that Shelagh has come forward to volunteer her services as Editor. One volunteer is worth ten of those press ganged. Seriously, I am delighted and I know you will support her in the same way as you have done over the years for me. Thank you, Shelagh, and all good wishes – Valerie*

Jackie Barlow (1958-63). I have taken early retirement from the Foreign & Commonwealth Office and I am now in London after time spent on many foreign postings. *Enjoy your 'retirement' which should see you busier than ever! You will surely miss the warm weather of the more recent Caribbean – Ed.*

Carol Mansfield (1958-65). I attend the Reunion most years and hope to come in 2006 although have not yet booked my flight! Since October 2005 I've been living in Spain and working in Gibraltar. I live about 33 kilometres from work, so drive this daily, which I assure you beats any UK commuting! The views and scenery are fantastic as is "The Rock" as you approach it. It also means crossing The Frontier twice a day whether on foot or in the car. Gibraltar is very cosmopolitan, although English is most heard, but all Gibraltarians speak English and Spanish. The currency is the Gibraltar £ and there are still red telephone boxes, letter boxes and helmeted policeman, although their shirts have short sleeves! A very patriotic country and obviously very pro-British. The Company I work for employs many nationalities and I run their payroll. This is similar to UK but about 20 years behind us, for example, weekly stamps still exist for Social

Insurance (UK National Insurance). One drawback is that income tax is exceptionally high, at 45% on a much lower income than UK. However, I am thrilled to be there and living in Spain. I arrived in September, complete with cat! The first thing I had to do was buy a Spanish car. My office is on the 6th floor with views over Gibraltar bay, the Dockyard, Spain and Africa - where else can you see three countries without moving from your office chair? There are also cruise liners in the bay as well as Naval ships, oil tankers and container ships with commercial and RAF aircraft flying past my window. Such a great view, a real incentive and reminder of where I am now working. The added bonus is that I will be 60 next birthday and intended to retire to my place in Spain so I am here early, with an income, and may now not retire so promptly! *It all sounds lovely – has the cat learned to meow in Spanish yet?* Ed.

****IN MEMORIAM****

Mary Waite (Bowyer, later Hawkins, 1950-56/57). **Joan Astill** (Chennells 1951-57) sent news of the death of her great friend Mary Waite in February 2005. Whilst never an actual member of the Old Paludians, Mary would have been known to many of her era. She had attended Cippenham School before SHS and after leaving school went to work for Barclays Bank. After the death of her first husband Mike Hawkins in 1965, after only 6 years of marriage, she later went on to marry Anthony Waite and they moved to Norfolk in 1973 where they remained until Mary's death. *If anyone would like to have a copy of the full obituary for Mary, please contact Jean Tyler – Ed.*

Jill Stewart (Rider 1950-57). *Jill's husband, Ian, has written this moving tribute:* I first met Jill at the Datchet Young Conservative Guy Fawkes Dance in November 1962, being a witty fun loving girl and we were married in July 1964. Two years later Jill presented us with a beautiful baby girl, whom we called Keren. Jeremy was born the following year in July 1967 and our family was complete. We both decided to educate our children privately, this soon began to drain our finances and Jill suggested that she go back to work full time. She started at a dental surgery, 4 hours daily, this soon became full time, in addition to this she worked 3 nights a week at Slough Stadium becoming the first licensed Lady Racing Steward in the country. She remained in this position until the Stadium was replaced by the Co-op.

We were fortunate with both children, making us very proud of them; Keren is a mother of 2 and a Consultant Fashion Designer. Jeremy on the other hand studied Veterinary Science and became very well known by his appearance in Animal Hospital with Rolf Harris. Jill was an extremely proud Mum. At the age of 42, Jill decided that she would like to run the Marathon, with her usual determination she trained very hard, clocking up over 200 miles between events. She ran the marathon in Los Angeles (1), New York (2) and London (9) and numerous half marathons. She sought sponsorship for various charities, usually raising over £1000 per marathon.

The decade of the 90's was not very good for us and then came the dreaded year of 1998 when Jill went to the G.P. complaining of feeling run down, she was referred to a Neurologist, who recommended an MRN scan, this resulted in the diagnosis of Alzheimer's Disease, for which there is no cure. She bravely faced up to this enemy and gave it a very good run for its money, succumbing to 24 hour care in July 2005 and finally being defeated on 17 January 2006. I cannot believe she has gone and I will always be so very proud of her. *We extend our condolences and sympathy to Ian, Keren and Jeremy and their families in their recent tragic loss - Ed.*

Jean Tyler (Ireland 1950-56) recalls her memories of her:

****1960s****

David Upton (1963-70) David has published a sequel to his 2003 Conan Doyle pastiche, *The Lost Holmes. Sherlock Holmes's Christmas* takes the detective and Dr Watson to a Christmas house party just outside Eton, to investigate the murder of the host's secretary. More deaths follow, and an old enemy re-emerges, before Sherlock Holmes succeeds in pulling off one of his most meritorious finales. Details of how to obtain the book, described in the Newsletter of the Sherlock Holmes Society of London as 'a cracking good detective story', may be had from the author by phoning him on 01753 792876 or e-mailing him at <david@upton.fsbusiness.co.uk> It is also hoped that copies will be available for sale at the 2006 reunion.

Geraldine (Geri) Ackroyd (Woodend 1965-70). A month or so back, I read the news about the death of **Miss White** on the Old Paludians' website. Although she was a great age, I was still very sad to read of her

passing. During my time at SHS, Miss White always stood out as the teacher with whom I had the most empathy! She was such a wonderful character and I am sure we won't see her like again. I am so sorry that I won't be able to attend the Reunion at SGS.

Sally Lovelock (Fryett 1965-72). I regret I am unable to attend this year's Reunion. Best wishes for a happy time. I'd like to hear from anybody from the Old Twiches Lane-ites. I have lost touch with everyone from the 65-72 era.

Laurie Brokenshire CBE (1966-71). It was grand to return to SGS with the boot on the other foot last year;

instead of a pupil of too many (oh alright, "about forty"!) years ago, I arose phoenix like (?) as a "visiting lecturer" to give a couple of lessons/talks/lectures to the unsuspecting Year 8 Mathematicians! Together with a clutch of Maths Professors we entertained/ bamboozled our young audience (seriously!) with the FUN of mathematics (and, although you may think me "sad", I truly mean that!). I'm told that all enjoyed my mix of puzzles, brain-strainers and magic as much as I did - but you'd better ask them... I got invited back by Mrs L to attend the excellent Nelson/Trafalgar musical evening in St George's Chapel in Windsor Castle, so it can't have been THAT bad! In fact I had a magnificent year overall, with many events all over the country to celebrate the 200th Anniversary of Trafalgar - an inevitable occupational hazard of running the Sea Cadets nationally. The International Fleet Review, Drumhead Ceremony and Festival of the Sea will live in my memory for ever, as will the superb Sea Cadet Parade on Trafalgar Square with all the Lords of the Admiralty, the Dukes of Edinburgh and York, to name-drop but a few! If you want to hear about the rest of the stunning array of events, then catch me at the next reunion and I will be only too happy to oblige - with photographs if you ask me early enough!!

Also last year we did Land's End to John o' Groats (1,027 miles) in a fortnight to celebrate our Silver Wedding Anniversary on two bikes, not a tandem - we've also cycled for a long week-end along the Normandy beaches from Cherbourg to Le Havre (taking in the Bayeux Tapestry) and camping - in NOVEMBER! Then 1,000 km in Holland (only one month after my knee op - caused by the skiing accident over the New Year (Jan 05) - physio NOT impressed! But I made it!! Camping too). This year we're off to cycle from Budapest through Hungary, Slovakia, Czech Republic, Austria and back to Czech Republic (possibly via Krakow in Poland) to fly back from Prague - all in about 8 or 9 days - camping again, but this time in MAY! I hope to find some more puzzles on our jaunts - Ethel's happy because I can't get TOO many on my bicycle!! And may I say a huge "Thank You!" to those who organise our reunions every year - you are doing a sterling job, and we all DO much appreciate it - even if it's not vocalised all that often - THANKS! *I wonder what Laurie does in his spare time? Sounds a great 'day job' – Ed.*

Claire Brereton (1966-73). I am now well settled with my family in Australia, having emigrated in 2001. We live in the foothills of the Great Dividing Range on the outskirts of Brisbane (dim memories of long ago Geography lessons with Miss **Saunderson**!) After taking a couple of years off, I have returned to work and recently started my own business, operating as an independent IT Consultant. Husband Nick is running a motorcycle import business, and daughters Rachel and Lizzie (aged 9 and 7, and yes I was a very late starter as a mother) are both at primary school. We returned to UK in summer 2005 for a family wedding and I am making another trip over in March but will be in France by the time of the reunion so won't be able to join you. We have continued to explore Australia in our holidays. We panned for gold on a September camping trip, and have just returned from Rainbow Beach, near Fraser Island, which was our summer holiday jaunt. Nick and I took a short trip to Vanuatu in the South Pacific in November to celebrate my 50th birthday. We have had quite a few visitors from UK over the last year, and old friends are always welcome.

****1970s** **1980s****

No news from any of the Old Paludians from these eras.

OUR WEBSITE - Our website continues to be our shop window enabling news and information to be instantly available 24 hours a day wherever you are in the world. We have no doubt that it is possibly the largest and best dedicated school site of its kind in Britain and thanks are due to our excellent Webmaster, Ian Cairns. Why not have a look at <www.oldpaludians.org> and the chances are that you will find yourself amongst all those photographs! **Ian** is aware many of you have spent time in sending in names for the photographs and apologises that he is behind in updating this part of the website. It has been due to a combination of illness and family commitments – several times he has asked for help in this task but as yet,

no-one has come forward. If you feel you are able to help, please get in touch. Meanwhile do continue to help identify the people on the photographs and they will all be incorporated in due course – Ed.

SPECIAL REQUEST Slough Civic Society is interested in the history of Lascelles Playing Fields – do members have any stories to tell or recollections of Lascelles Playing Fields whilst at the Grammar School? There were several references in Peter Bennett's book but I am sure many of you will have tales to tell. For instance, can anyone confirm the story that Sir Alan Cobham's Flying Circus once took place there? A quick trip in the bi-plane for 2/6d or 5/- would have been the highlight of many a young boy's summer and probably Dad's too ! The Society is also seeking recollections of the pavilion in the park. If you can help please contact Malcolm Hellings (01753 521186) or Valerie (01628 605411). Many thanks.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW LIFE MEMBERS

We warmly welcome all those who have become Life Members over the past year. Our website will keep you fully informed of news, dates of events etc. and for those of you within striking distance of Lascelles Road we hope to see you at our Reunions and other functions. Letters giving news of the Reunions are sent out by post or email each January to all members and others who have shown interest or made contact during the previous year.

If anyone has been omitted, our apologies and the omission will be rectified next time – Ed

NEW LIFE MEMBERS 2005 – 2006

1930s

Joan Allen (Robinson)	1933 - 38
Beryl Wheatley (Davies)	1933 - 39
Arthur Hancock	1935 - 40
George Milne	1936 - 41
Barbara Keast (Bucknell)	1937 - 42
Barbara Lloyd (Stewart)	1938 - 44
David Morgan	1939 - 44
Dugald (Jim) Ross	1939 - 44

1940s

Geoffrey Taylor	1940 - 44
Hazel Strange (Bucknell)	1940 - 46
Dinah Batty (Kleeman)	1942 - 47
Estelle Dominey (Haynes)	1944 - 48
Brian Poole	1945 - 51
Sylvia King (Hernaman)	1946 - 51
Claire Titcombe (Belcher)	1946 - 51
Barbara Mead (Phillips)	1946 - 53
Jean Baldwin (Manley)	1947 - 56
Mick Vockins	1949 - 54

1950s

Margaret Salter (Curl)	1950 - 55
Dr David Spooner	1950 - 57
Philip Wheeler	1950 - 57
Judy Tipping (?)	1951 - 53
John Whipps	1951 - 56
Valerie Gomersall (Watts)	1953 - 58
Linda Osborn (Handcock)	1955 - 62
Gerald Bull	1955 - 63
Margaret Pemble (Arthur)	1955 - 63
Lynne Willis (Partleton)	1956 - 58
Janet Waters (Rolfe)	1956 - 63
Patricia Smith (Moreton)	1959 - 61

1960s

Richard Knight	1964 - 71
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1970s

Tim L'Angellier	1974 - 80
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1980s

Mark Turner	83 - 89
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Former STAFF

Catherine Bowater	1973 - 95
Jacqueline Toms	1981 - 2005
Colin Wellard	1992 - 2005

The Old Paludians Book

Published in 2005 to celebrate the 90th Anniversary of the founding of the Old Paludians.

Once again Old Paludians have drawn upon their memories - 180 pages of schooldays, perhaps in times of war or national strife, perhaps special personal occasions that stay forever in the mind. Maybe starting school as timid pupils or leaving school as confident young adults. Friendships that have passed every possible test of time and are still fresh today - places - hilarious memories - poignant memories. They are all here, recorded forever and giving an intriguing overview of school years against a background of the social life of Slough. It is a 'must have' for all members and will make a special present for families and friends. The order form is re-printed below

".... there was a sudden burst of gunfire and the sound of bombs dropping in the Langley direction. The plaster over the windows cracked ominously and we dived under the desks pronto! When we emerged, Mr H..... (taking the heat out of the situation), sat benignly and said, *Who gave you permission to get under your desks?*"

"...Miss P was young and pleasant, and had a hard time controlling some of the boys, Miss T was made of sterner stuff, and you hardly dared breathe when she was in charge, or even in the vicinity"

"..."Well," said the news editor thoughtfully...*Unscrupulous, but enterprising; deceitful, but resourceful. He shall start on Monday ...* and I did. I wonder what Dr L... would have made of it all....."

".... one girl took a bite into her bun and screamed..... inside was half a mouse ... everyone was tearing their bun apart, looking for the other half....."

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School Ties - further recollections of the Old Paludians

In celebration of the 90th anniversary of our founding we are publishing our second book made possible by so many of you writing and submitting recollections of your time at school. It is soft backed, about 180 pages with some photographs and complements our first book by Peter Bennett which was published in 2000.

Mrs Jean Tyler, 1, Oak Stubbs Lane, Dorney Reach, Maidenhead, Berks. SL6 0DW

- ☐ If personally collected from Jean Tyler each book costs £10
- ☐ For UK postal orders please send £11.50 for each book required
- ☐ For overseas (airmail) orders please send £12.50 for each book required
- ☐ Please complete the reverse side of this form and send to Jean Tyler at the above address
- ☐ Please make cheques payable to **The Old Paludians** *Order form continued overleaf*



We've found:

Betty Wess (Cohen 1941-46). Betty came forward saying she had an early SHS photograph. I know that a couple of years ago several Old Paludians were wondering if anyone had news of her. She tells me her nickname was Coco and she will be pleased to hear from her contemporaries. If you wish to make contact with Betty, please contact Valerie in the first instance on 01628 605411 and she will put you in touch.

Thelma Ricketts (Banister 1943-48) has been found for **Margaret Paine** (Paine) who nearly has a 'full house' just a few missing, see overleaf.

Doreen Paul (Trew 1947-52). Has been put in touch with **Janet Cleeton** (Bowles) thanks to the Old Pals.

Peter Burgess (1949-54). After a long search one more of the Upper VB gang has been found – **Kevin Melia** has surfaced thanks to the Old Paludians. Not many more to go – see LOST on page 21.

White – Langley Road Last year, we had a query asking if anyone knew a family by the name of White – thanks to **John Overton** who passed me some information at the Reunion, we were able to help within just a few days. Full contact was made and everyone was well pleased. *Thanks, John – Ed.*

MEMBERSHIP RECORDS

Valerie has offered to be Membership Secretary and maintain the records in our database. New applications for membership should now be addressed to her (see back page) as well as notification of any changes of address/email.

NOTE: Details of members' names, addresses, years at school etc., are held in a computer database strictly in accordance with the rules governing Data Protection. Your attention is drawn to this fact. Such information is used solely for mailing and Old Paludians purposes and is not divulged to other organisations. Should you have any objection to this we can arrange for your name to be removed and any correspondence will be dealt with by hand. This is your right under the Data Protection Act and we will assume you have no such objection unless otherwise informed.

✂ ✂ ✂

I wish to order book(s) **SCHOOL TIES** which I will collect @ **£10 each** £.....

I wish to order book(s) to be sent by post @ **£11.50 each** £.....

I wish to orderbook(s) to be sent overseas @ **£12.50 each** £.....

TOTAL ENCLOSED £.....

NAME (please print)

ADDRESS

.....

.....

.....Post code



We've lost touch with:

Rene Elfer (Bubb 1937-42). From Louisiana, USA, Rene is still hoping to catch up with anyone in her years.

Dugald J (Jim) Ross (1939-44). Jim has recalled many names from his past such as **David Morgan, William (Bill) Hill, Norman Taylor, Tony Witchell** and **Geoff Taylor**. Sadly Bill and Tony have passed on and he knows where the other three are but where are the others from Class 5A? Have you any news of them – **Percy Culling, Pesco Scott, A B Cramp, Diamond, Mick Crowther, Maurice 'Pussy' White, Egon Braun, Bomber Leybourne, Robert Hall, Rex Crevald** from the Garage in Old Windsor and some 30 others. Jim mentions **Pongo Egelstaff** of the wonderful left foot – well, we do know where he is and I will put Jim in touch. I hope we can find news of some of the others (and I hope I have read your writing correctly!) – Ed.

Margaret Paine (Paine 1943-48). Still trying to find some of our class – **Rosemarie Padwick, Brenda Joiner, Sheila Osborne, Noreen Parrymore, Sheila Rapley** and **Audrey Bateman** whose father had a furnisher in Slough and who emigrated to Perth possibly with her brothers and their families – I think they attended SGS in the 1940s. If anyone has any news where they might be, please give me a ring on 01753 643740 – any news would be welcome – thank you.

Doreen Paul (Trew 1947-52). Doreen would like to get in contact with her classmates **Sibylle Wright, Jill West** and **Enid (Binkie) Jones** (all 1947-54 era). She would also like to be remembered to **Michael Redford** who used to live nearby in Datchet. Doreen may be contacted via her brother-in-law, **Peter Burgess**, on 01905 610329 or via Valerie.

Peter Burgess and the Upper VB boys (1949-54). See also the **FOUND** section. We are continuing to search for **Nick Walton** (year above us), **Johnny Hinds** and **Peter Ashley**. We have such a good group now, we meet up twice a year and have a terrific 'mini' reunion – we would like the others to join us if at all possible. Please tell me if you have any information (01905 610329). *I see the photos and wow, were they always this handsome – Ed.*

Betty Lambourne (Milsom) (1953-1958). It would be nice to hear from **Jane Bate, Brenda Nash, Susan Lloyd, Dilys Nicholls, Pat Horsham**, if anyone knows their whereabouts, please let me know.

Bernard Cormac John Smith (c.1963-69). We believe that Bernard Cormac John Smith attended the last Reunion; he left some personal documents in a nearby hotel room. It would seem unlikely these were all destined for the archives and we would hesitate to add them until we are sure this was meant to be their final destination! If anyone has contact details for Bernard, please let us know so that we can return his papers or thank him for them. The Hotel could or would not help but merely sent the items to the school – thank you.

Sally Lovelock (Fryett 1965-72). Sally would be very pleased to hear from anyone who was at Twinchies Lane with her. She lives in the Hedgerley area of Slough so if you were at SHS with Sally do get in touch. Contact details are with the Editor

Susan White (1969-74) is a former member of staff who taught physics at SGS and she is seeking news of Senior Lab Technician, **Mrs J F 'Mickey' Taylor** at SGS and who retired about 1985. She used to live in Cippenham but the address and phone number no longer seem to apply. All searches have so far drawn a blank so if anyone out there has any ideas please get in touch with Valerie (01628 605411) or with David Rogers, via Jean Tyler as we have contact addresses for Susan.

Contact details for any of the above may be obtained from the Editor – see back page – or from Valerie at 01628 605411.

Do you remember last year we asked for helping solving this mystery?

Another puzzle: Peter Bennett (1930-36) remembers his school friend Gordon Eric Blake who was killed in action as a Sergeant with the RAF and is buried at the cemetery in Stoke Road, Slough. Peter has an inscribed silver cigarette case which belonged to Gordon and is anxious to restore it to its rightful family. The late **Barbara Holmes** (Mickleburgh 1938-45) was related in some way to Gordon – we know she was a widow when she died in 1999 and had one son (Timothy) and a daughter (Sarah). Does anyone have any information in order that this rather special family memento can be passed back into its own family? Please contact Valerie on 01628 605411 with any information, however small – thank you.

Sergeant Gordon Eric Blake was killed on 13 June 1941 and like Jack Hammerton, whose story we told on page 6, he is buried in a grave tended by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission in the Stoke Road Cemetery.

Well, a new Life Member, Beryl Wheatley (Davies 1933-39) has found an answer:

I expect you have resolved the mystery of Gordon's cigarette case but I am sending what little I know about him now. He was engaged to a school friend of mine, also an Old Paludian, her name was **Alys Wetherhead**. She lived at that time, in Staunton Road, Slough. She was devastated when he was killed and after some time, married a Canadian soldier and emigrated with him. Unfortunately, I lost touch with her, She was a good friend, in fact they were a lovely young couple and we met up regularly at our youth club (Slough Social Centre !) I thought, if she could be contacted, she might be able to tell you something about the Blake family. I hope so anyway. Peter Bennett, of course, could donate the cigarette case to a local museum. Gordon was a hero and a handsome young man. it would be fitting I think. By the way, Alys attended SSS at the same time, as myself - 1933 - 1936.

Thank you very much for this information.

One of the most satisfying aspects of our Newsletter is the fact that somewhere, sometime, an answer is usually found to our requests for help. We have had some truly remarkable finds over the years and long may we do so.

The Old Paludians: 2005 -2006

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